

Whittier Alliance-Community Issues Committee- DRAFT MINUTES

Monday October 11, 2010. Whittier Elementary School

Attendees: Daphna Stromberg, Tod Skallerup, Christina Le, David Schorth, Sarah Rudberg, Kris Martinson, Karl Anjolak, M. Chris Swaggert, Cindy Wong, Darrell Washington, John Wislon, Lori Chu, Mohammad Ali, Abba Gabow, Anthony Carchedi, Lisa Vecoli, Sarah Reingold, Steve Kelly, Heidi Woodman, Laura Jean, Maurice Battle, Jesse Oyerdes, Shirley Bernu, Rohda Meyers, Nasra Nur, Alale Omer, Jo Ann Musumei **Presenters:** Lt. Diaz (5th Precinct), Dean Duvalis, Kelly Spratt (HCMC) **Staff:** Marian Biehn, Becky Neamy, Jessica Rosenberg

Call to order at 6:15 by Maurice Battle, CI Chair, who noted the Conflict of Interest & Standard of Conduct policies. A motion to **approve the agenda** was made, with the change of switching Heidi's and Karmel, and carried. The September CI minutes were **approved as amended**.

Announcements and Community Comments

Neighborhood Wine Tasting – Oct 20 5-8pm, Tickets \$25 available from the Whittier Alliance.

Fall Fundraising: The Whittier Alliance fall fundraiser is coming. Keep a look out in your inboxes and mailboxes for information on donating. **Hate your kitchen?** A local TV production company is looking for kitchens to update for their makeover show. Marian has more information. **Washburn Fair Oaks-Chinese Garden – Update on status.** The group got approval from the park board to move forward with fundraising. MB met with MIA, Park Rep. Tabb, and group. They have a lot of energy, support from mayor. One issue, WFO Park is in the historic district, so they need to prove relevance. If it moves forward, we'll have a citizen committee formed to coordinate it. **5th Precinct report –Lt. Diaz:** Down in most areas, up in auto thefts 12%, aggravated assault 15%, YTD. AA is usually people who know each other. Reported rape is down 42% YTD.

2848 Pleasant Ave S. Karmel Village Scott Nelson-DJR Architects

Conditional Use Permit for 18 additional units – from 77 to 95 residential units. No increase in building area, the size will stay the same. The additional 18 units will all be interior work. There are 109 parking spaces now, so with a 1:1 ratio they are still within parking requirements. 10 proposed units are on the greenway, in the basement. 7 units will be built facing Grand on the first floor. 1 unit will be in a vacant space on the 4th floor. This won't increase the square footage, adds eyes on the street, and is within the parking requirements. **Attendees Comments and Questions:** Last year: the CUP was approved, expanding the hallway, with the condition of having no more units. Now this adds more units. What's going on? Dean wasn't here for last year's CUP, can't speak to that.

CI Motion 1: Community Issues moves to deny the application for a conditional use permit for 18 additional units at 2848 Pleasant Ave S. **Motion Passes 15-0-1**

What would the access to the Greenway be like? What would the basement be like? Apts have views of the Greenway, but no doors or patios. The building door would be on the Greenway. Then wouldn't people use it as their space? No it is Hennepin County property. Planning Council put on the conditions that no more than 77 units would be in building. Sabri's attorney said at the time that Grand wasn't attractive or feasible. So now, Grand Ave is attractive enough? Are there environmental issues putting housing in basement? Dean says there aren't any environmental issues, and yes, Grand Ave is more attractive now. How many of the proposed apartments are already built? The space has been used for storage, not outfitted as apartments. There may be some dividing walls, but they are not apartments. Parking? There are 106 units in the building. By code it is okay. But visitors? People park all over. Have they been built? Dean says no. Mohamad says they've been building the past few weeks. What's going into the penthouse apartment? Can he have already built storage units? He could have. Community members express displeasure because they think internal walls and apartments are already being built. Will these apartments be market value price? Yes, market value, not lower-income. For this n'hood, 1.50/sq foot. LJ called the question.

Heidi's Restaurant – 2901 Lyndale: Public Hearing for Class E Liquor Lisc. - On sale wine, beer and liquor, no entertainment. **George Pridmore, Heidi Woodman.** George is here from regulatory services. Heidi's restaurant is going into what was Vera's, at 2901 Lyndale. Vera's had a wine and beer license. This is going to be for a liquor license. Because this is a change from beer & wine to liquor, city requires a public hearing. Heidi's has already come to Whittier, and Board has already supported, but this is public hearing, to satisfy the ordinances, and have question and answer period.

Attendees Comments and Questions: Is this a bar? This is more a drinks at the table. Not applying for a 2am license. There will be waiting area. Hours? Midnight S-Th, 1am F-S. Other location? Prior location wasn't eligible for a full license. They'd started conversations at the old place. When do you plan to open? Aiming for December. Why do you think you need a full liquor license? Being in business the past 3 years, it is something customers requested, to be able to have liquor with meals. It is also, business-wise, good profit. Will this be a family place? More of a date night. If you want to bring your kids, up to you. George says his office will make a recommendation, will probably support, and city council will probably support. They've worked with Heidi's, never had problems.

HCMC Whittier Clinic - Kelly Spratt – HCMC Kelly is director of emergency services. This is follow-up, continued conversation. Whittier Clinic is scheduled to open one week from today. The building is designed for longevity. A lot of sunlight, don't need many lights on during the day. Old building will close at noon on Friday, new building, with new equipment, will open Monday morning. Old building was built for 20-25,000 visits a year, last year saw 51,000. Old clinic was 23,000sq ft, new clinic is over 60,000 sq ft. Lots of specialists: Ob/gyn, physical therapists, pediatrics, sports medicine. Not a full urgent care: after-hours, but not emergency. The plan is to open with expand hours, see how it goes; possible to change. Current hours: MWF: 8am-5:30pm, T&Th: 8am-9pm. There is a grand opening on Saturday October 30th, 2-5pm. Food, prizes, games, Twins, family focused event, rain or shine.

Attendees Comments and Questions: Compared to Abbott, what are costs for services? Costs haven't changed. Jesse says he has experienced Abbott as cheaper for services, it would be great if costs could go down so that people in the n'hood can go to Whittier Clinic. They have sliding fee scale, based on income, and assured access. For in-county residents, you do have access. With new state program, HCMC is the only one to accept new people. Whittier neighbor thanks Kelly for the facility, for a great looking building, a pleasure to go down Nicollet and see it there. Kelly says HCMC has received a federal grant to expand care. About 30% of people seen have no insurance, and won't be able to pay. How much staff is at Whittier Clinic, what payroll coming into n'hood? About 70 staff, will be increasing physicians, to apx 110. Visits will be up to about 70,000/yr. Specialists coming here. Hiring happens at central. What outreach have you done in the past? Can you connect with the Whittier Elementary? Historically we've done a poor job of reaching out to community and schools. In some schools in the city we have established clinics. Based on economics, we've retracted some of those. We're going to try to become more outwardly focused, get involved with n'hoods. Having the clinic a few blocks away from school, Darrell points out there are lots of possible connections, especially in discussion about diabetes. Whittier Clinic will house coordinator of Diabetes Education for HCMC. Integrative health from Richfield is coming to Whittier: full time providers (acupuncture, alternative therapies).

Historic Preservation Guidelines - Elizabeth Gales - Hess Roise Update on development of preservation guidelines for the Whittier neighborhood. Hess Roise was hired to do historic study, and then make recommendations for the n'hood, and then do new guidelines for WFO Historic District. They've completed survey and context study. The deadline for the grant for the

recommendations is Nov. 12, and they should have it in by then. Recommendations for keeping historic character, everything from what kind of brick to use, doors & windows, design, masonry, storefronts, wood. If you want to see the draft chapters, email MB. Info on retaining historic value, keeping things energy efficient. Preserving historic windows, for example keeps material out of landfill, puts a local carpenter to work, and saves energy as much as new windows. How do you get something preserved? You can get something designated historic over wishes of property owner, but it can be challenging and you need political support. N'hood requests, then city council member, who can request to Mpls Heritage Preservation Commission. They do study, up to a year, to see if it is worthy of designation. Goes through HPC, then Planning and Zoning, then City Council for vote. Salem? It did go to Lilligren, about a year ago. He decided to wait until things were moving forward with that, wants Salem Church behind it, rather than forcing it. N'hood request is on his desk. National designation is more like honor roll: can still be torn down. Local designation is harder to get, more useful. Historic guide will give overall advice? Yes, overall guide (not info on specific buildings), and mostly for building exteriors. Document will be up to 50+ pages, copies at WA.

Old / New Business. Thanks to organizers of WA Green Fair, it was great. New Lake Wine and Cheese is great. Becky will be leaving WA, to South America, where community organizers go when they leave here. Thanks to Becky for all of her work. HCMC Opening 10/30. GiveMN 11/16

Meeting adjourned: 7:36pm

Minutes submitted by: Jessica Rosenberg, Administrative Assistant, Whittier Alliance

Next meeting: Monday, November 8th, 6 pm, Whittier Elementary School